of Planning Commission based on the Expert Group methodology adopted by the Government of India for TPDS.

(iii) Gram Panchayats and Gram Sabhas should be involved in the identification of eligible families below poverty line.

Removal of ceilings on foodgrains stock

5041. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to remove ceilings on foodgrains stock throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether restrictions on the movement of food grains from one State to another have also been lifted;

(c) if so, whether removal of such restrictions has encouraged black-marketing and hoarding of foodgrains throughout the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to check such trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) As per Central Government's present policy, there exists no stock- limits on rice and coarsegrains. However, in the case of rice, the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Tamil Nadu are still keeping stock limits on account of local conditions. As regards wheat, taking an overall view of the food situation and also the major storage constraints being faced all over the country, in April 1999, Central Government advised all the States/ UTs to abolish stock-limits on wheat and wheat products. Subsequently, in September' 99 we advised all the States/UTs to reimpose the stock limits on wheat and wheat products, with a view to check the rising trend in their open market prices, if the situation so warrants.

(b) In March, 1993, Central Government adopted the national policy of treating the entire country as a single food zone for free movement of foodgrains so that the farmers could get remunerative prices of their products anywhere in the country. All the StatesUTs., excepting Andhra Pradesh, J&K, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, have taken action to adhere to this national policy. These four States want to keep the movement restrictions on paddy/ rice with a view to maximizing procurement.

(c) No such instance has come to our notice.

(d) Does not arise.